

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
LIVESTOCK AND SEED PROGRAM

APPROVED

USDA, AMS, LS Program.STDZ  
Rm. 2607-S 01/23/02

SUPPLEMENTATION FOR  
TECHNICAL DATA SUPPLEMENT (TDS) 136 – June 2000  
FOR SPECIAL PROCUREMENT OF GROUND BEEF PRODUCT CODE A670

**Scope:**

This document will be used for the procurement of ground beef produced from USDA Select or higher graded beef and packaged in 2-pound packages. Product must be produced in accordance with Technical Data Supplement (TDS) 136 – June 2000, and applicable amendments with the additional requirements stated below.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Page 5, **B. GRADE** – No grade requirement. **Delete** and **SUBSTITUTE** with the following:

**"B. GRADE** – USDA Select, Choice, or Prime."

Page 10, **H. PACKAGING AND PACKING, 1. Packaging**, **ADD** the following section:

- "e) Twenty, 2-pound packages of ground beef will be placed into a 40 pound net weight shipping container and will be either:
  - (1) mechanically packaged into casings with a uniform length and diameter; or
  - (2) vacuum packaged in accordance with the thermoforming method as defined in the IMPS General Requirements."

Page 11, **H. PACKAGING AND PACKING, 4. Marking of Shipping Containers**, (1), (2): **ADD** the following section:

- "g) Item No. 136 Ground Beef, 2- Pound Package Labels will have:
  - (3) The following information included on commercially labeled packages: safe handling instructions, nutrition facts panel, the "best if used by " date (180 calendar days from the date of production), and the FSIS establishment number.
  - (4) A UPC Code. The Universal Product Code (UPC) code and symbol will be required on each 2-pound package and a UPC shipping container code, called Interleaved 2 of 5 (I 2/5) bar code, will appear on each shipping container. In accordance with the UPC guidelines published by the Uniform Code Council (UCC), a 12-digit UPC code and symbol, which consists of the number 715001016706, must appear on each 2-pound package. A 14 digit I 2/5 bar code, which consists of the number 10715001016703, must appear on each shipping container that contains the 2-pound beef packages. The code for the primary package (2-pound package) must be placed in a position which precludes interference with other required markings. The code for the shipping container should be placed

in the lower corner of one side panel. For contrast in scanning, a white block will be used as background for bar codes applied directly to the 2-pound package label. The UPC guidelines describe the requirements for the proper placement, printing, readability, and scanability for the bar coding. The complete code must be printed in machine and human readable form. The start and stop indicators must be included in the bar code symbols. Package manufacturers, printers, and film master suppliers are familiar with this symbology. Further information may be obtained from the Uniform Code Council, Inc.; 8163 Old Yankee Road, Suite J; Dayton, Ohio 45458. Telephone: 513/435-3870. The Department of Agriculture has acquired a unique manufacturer's identification number for this application. Contractors need not join the UCC."

This supplementation is effective for offers submitted on or after January 23, 2002.

/s/ Steve C. Olson  
Steve C. Olson, Acting Chief  
Standardization Branch  
Livestock and Seed Program